

## **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the proposed amendment above and the remarks below is respectfully requested.

Claims 24-25 are herein proposed to be canceled. No claims are herein proposed to be amended or added. Therefore, claims 1-23 and 26 are pending and under active consideration.

Claims 1-23 and 26 have been allowed.

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) "as being anticipated by Herman et al. (1996)," and claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) "as being unpatentable over Gonzalgo et al. (1997) in view of the Stratagene Catalog (1989)." However, in view of the cancellation herein of claims 24 and 25, these rejections are moot and should be withdrawn.

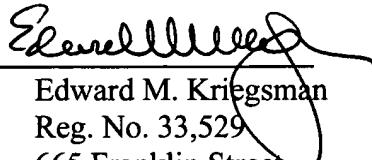
In conclusion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper that are not accounted for, the Examiner is authorized to charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 11-1755. If a fee is

required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 that is not accounted for already, such an extension of time is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

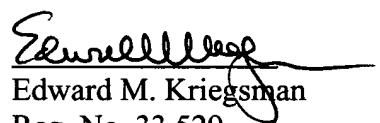
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 16, 2005.

  
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Dated: May 16, 2005